

Please distribute this email to all advisory board members for discussion at the first meeting on Nov. 18th.

From: White, Barbara [mailto:Barbara.White@fldoe.org]

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 6:21 PM

To: cviscito@bellsouth.net

Subject: Class size questions

Mr. Viscito, good afternoon,

It was my pleasure to talk to you about your questions regarding the class size reduction requirements. Below are the websites I said I would send you. Please call if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Barbara White
Florida Department of Education
Division of Finance and Operations
(850) 245-9115

Florida Statute that authorizes team teaching (portion copied below as well):

http://www.flsenate.gov/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=1003.03&URL=CH1003/Sec03.HTM

1003.03 Maximum class size.—

(5) TEAM-TEACHING STRATEGIES.—

(a) School districts may use teaching strategies that include the assignment of more than one teacher to a classroom of students and that were implemented before July 1, 2005. Effective July 1, 2005, school districts may implement additional teaching strategies that include the assignment of more than one teacher to a classroom of students for the following purposes only:

1. Pairing teachers for the purpose of staff development.
2. Pairing new teachers with veteran teachers.
3. Reducing turnover among new teachers.
4. Pairing teachers who are teaching out-of-field with teachers who are in-field.
5. Providing for more flexibility and innovation in the classroom.
6. Improving learning opportunities for students, including students who have disabilities.

(b) Teaching strategies, including team teaching, co-teaching, or inclusion teaching, implemented on or after July 1, 2005, pursuant to paragraph (a) may be implemented subject to the following restrictions:

1. Reasonable limits shall be placed on the number of students in a classroom so that classrooms are not overcrowded. Teacher-to-student ratios within a curriculum area or grade level must not exceed constitutional limits.
2. At least one member of the team must have at least 3 years of teaching experience.

3. At least one member of the team must be teaching in-field.
4. The teachers must be trained in team-teaching methods within 1 year after assignment.

(c) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Team teaching" or "co-teaching" means two or more teachers are assigned to a group of students and each teacher is responsible for all of the students during the entire class period. In order to be considered team teaching or co-teaching, each teacher is responsible for planning, delivering, and evaluating instruction for all students in the class or subject for the entire class period.

2. "Inclusion teaching" means two or more teachers are assigned to a group of students, but one of the teachers is responsible for only one student or a small group of students in the classroom.

The use of strategies implemented as outlined in this subsection meets the letter and intent of the Florida Constitution and the Florida Statutes which relate to implementing class size reduction, and this subsection applies retroactively. A school district may not be penalized financially or otherwise as a result of the use of any legal strategy, including, but not limited to, those set forth in subsection (3) and this subsection.

Database manual for calculating class size average.

<http://www.fldoe.org/eias/dataweb/tech/classsize0304.pdf>

Your particular concerns are addressed on page 8, the frequently asked questions:

7. How does the Scheduling Method code "C" (Co-Teacher) affect the Class Size calculation?

If two or more teachers are assigned to a group of students and each of the teachers is responsible for ALL of the students during the ENTIRE period span indicated on the schedule, then all of the teachers should be coded "C" and the total number of students (unduplicated) will be divided by the number of teachers marked with a "C."

8. If two teachers are assigned to one classroom, should they both be coded as Co-Teachers?

Not necessarily. Only if BOTH teachers are responsible for ALL students, should they both be coded as Co-Teachers.

9. What if two teachers are assigned to one class, but one of them is only responsible for one student or a small group of students in the classroom?

The primary teacher should be coded "S" (Self-Contained). The other teacher or teachers should be assigned to the students for whom he or she is responsible and coded "I" (In-Class-One-On-One).

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